

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RECIFE 00103 261036Z
ACTION ARA-14

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R 251840Z MAY 78
FM AMCONSUL RECIFE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5881
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

UNCLAS RECIFE 0103

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, ASEC,BR
SUBJ: ABDUCTION AND RELEASE OF MEXICAN HONORARY CONSUL IN RECIFE

REF: RECIFE-BRASILIA SAVACALL OF 5/24, BRASILIA-OP CENTER
TELCON OF 5/24

1. SUMMARY: AS REPORTED TO OPERATIONS CENTER NIGHT OF MAY 24, MEXICO'S HONORARY CONSUL IN RECIFE, ARNALDO DA FONTE DUBEUX, WAS SEIZED IN HIS OFFICE MORNING OF MAY 24 BY A SINGLE GUNMAN WHO DEMANDED A SAFE CONDUCT PASS AND TRANSPORTATION OUT OF BRAZIL AS HIS PRICE FOR RELEASING DUBEUX AND FOUR EMPLOYEES UNHARMED. AFTER HOLDING THE HOSTAGES AT GUNPOINT FOR EIGHT HOURS THE GUNMAN, 22 YEAR OLD EMPLOYEE OF AN INDUSTRIAL TRAINING SCHOOL SILVIO JOSE PACHECO DA SILVA, RELEASED THEM UNHARMED AND, APPARENTLY BELIEVING THAT HIS DEMANDS HAD BEEN MET, SURRENDERED TO STATE POLICE AUTHORITIES WHO PROMPTLY ARRESTED HIM. A FULL REPORT ON THE ABDUCTION HAS NOT BEEN RELEASED BUT SPECULATION AS TO PACHECO'S MOTIVES CENTERS AROUND BOTH HIS APPARENT LEFTIST POLITICAL BELIEFS AND POSSIBLE MENTAL INSTABILITY. END SUMMARY.

2. CONSUL DUBEUX AND HIS STAFF WERE SEIZED AT APPROXIMATELY 0940 ON MAY 24 BY PACHECO WHO RETURNED TO THE OFFICE WITH A 22 CALIBRE PISTOL JUST MINUTES AFTER HAVING HAD HIS REQUEST FOR A STUDENT
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SCHOLARSHIP TO MEXICO DENIED BY THE CONSUL. AFTER HERDING THE EMPLOYEES INTO THE MAIN OFFICE HE FIRED ONE SHOT INTO A WALL AND DEMANDED THAT HE BE GIVEN A SAFE CONDUCT PASS AND A PLANE TO TAKE HIM TO MEXICO. AFTER PERMITTING THE CONSUL TO CALL A COLLEAGUE HE THEN REPEATED THESE DEMANDS, SLIGHTLY CHANGED TO INCLUDE CUBA, SWEDEN OR EASTERN EUROPE AS POSSIBLE DESTINATIONS, TO THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE. AT THAT TIME HE SAID THAT HE WOULD

NEGOTIATE ONLY WITH PERNAMBUCO GOVERNOR MOURA CAVALCANTI.

3. STATE POLICE QUICKLY SURROUNDED THE BUILDING AND MOURA CAVALCANTI, WHO WAS TRAVELING IN THE INTERIOR OF THE STATE, RETURNED IMMEDIATELY TO RECIFE, ARRIVING IN MID-AFTERNOON. BEFORE HIS ARRIVAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH PACHECO WERE CARRIED OUT BY THE HONORARY CONSUL FROM HOLLAND, A CLOSE FRIEND OF DUBEUX'S, AND LATER WITH THE PRESENCE OF THE FRENCH CONSUL, DEAN OF THE RECIFE CONSULAR CORPS. TWO HOSTAGES, BOTH FEMALE AND ONE PREGNANT, WERE RELEASED BY PACHECO BEFORE HIS SURRENDER.

4. UPON HIS RETURN TO RECIFE, GOV. MOURA CAVALCANTI SPOKE WITH PACHECO BY TELEPHONE FROM THE GOVERNOR'S PALACE FOR APPROXIMATELY 40 MINUTES. FOLLOWING THIS CONVERSATION PACHECO, WHO APPARENTLY BELIEVED THAT HIS DEMANDS HAD BEEN MET BY STATE AUTHORITIES, RELEASED HIS HOSTAGES--WHO WERE UNHARMED AND IN GOOD CONDITION--AND QUIETLY SURRENDERED TO THE FEDERAL POLICE. HE WAS IMMEDIATELY ARRESTED AND TAKEN TO THE FEDERAL POLICE HEADQUARTERS IN RECIFE.

5. SPECULATION ON PACHECO'S MOTIVES FOR THE ABDUCTION CENTER AROUND HIS APPARENT LEFTIST POLITICAL VIEWS. HE TOLD DUBEUX THAT HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE BRAZILIAN COMMUNIST PARTY YOUTH WING. HE USED THE NAME OF A RECENTLY DECEASED RADICAL PEASANT LEAGUE ORGANIZER AND SAID THE HE WANTED TO ATTRACT WORLD ATTENTION TO THE DEFECTS OF BRAZIL'S POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEM. .THE POLICE ARE SAID TO HAVE A REPORT INDICATING THAT HE FOR TWO UNCLASSIFIED

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YEARS HAD PLANS FOR SMILAR ABDUCTIONS AGAINST AREA CIVIL AND MILITARY AUTHORITIES, INCLUDING THE CONSULS OF JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES. THE GOVERNOR SAID THAT HE BELIEVED PACHECO TO BE OF SOUND MIND. SOME OF PACHECO'S ACTS, SUCH AS REQUESTING THAT THE REQUIRED DEPOSIT FOR TRAVEL OUTSIDE BRAZIL BE MADE, RAISE QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS.

6. CONSULATE WILL REPORT NEW INFORMATION AS IT BECOMES KNOWN. HOFFENBERG

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